



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 13, 2008

H.R. 2964 **Captive Primate Safety Act**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on June 11, 2008

SUMMARY

H.R. 2964 would amend the Lacey Act to prohibit interstate and foreign trade of nonhuman primates. The legislation also would authorize the appropriation of \$5 million for 2009 for enforcement of the bill. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$17 million over the 2009-2013 period, assuming appropriation of the amounts authorized for 2009 and amounts estimated to be necessary after that. The bill could increase revenue collections and direct spending, but we estimate that any such net changes would be insignificant.

The bill contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 2964 would impose a private-sector mandate, as defined in UMRA, on certain entities that handle nonhuman primates. CBO expects that the direct costs of the mandate would fall well below the annual threshold established by UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$136 million in 2008, adjusted for inflation).

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 2964 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2008- 2013
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Estimated Authorization Level	5	3	4	4	4	20
Estimated Outlays	2	3	4	4	4	17

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

H.R. 2964 would make it illegal to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase nonhuman primates (such as monkeys and apes). Violators of the proposed prohibition on interstate and foreign trade of such animals would be subject to criminal and civil penalties.

Based on information provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2964 would cost about \$4 million annually, primarily for additional staff to conduct inspections and investigations to enforce the legislation. CBO expects that the agency would take about three years to reach that level of effort. Thus, we estimate that the added duties for USFWS would cost about \$17 million over the 2009-2013 period, assuming appropriation of the \$5 million authorized to be appropriated for 2009 and the amounts estimated to be necessary after that.

Enacting H.R. 2964 could increase revenues from civil and criminal fines. Based on information obtained from the USFWS about the relatively small number of violations likely to occur, CBO estimates that any such increase would be less than \$500,000 annually. Moreover, such changes would be fully offset by increases in direct spending from the Crime Victims Fund (where criminal fines are deposited) or the resource management account of the USFWS (where civil fines are deposited and used for rewards to informers and for other program costs).

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

H.R. 2964 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR

H.R. 2964 would impose a private-sector mandate as defined in UMRA. The bill would prohibit any person from importing, exporting, transporting, selling, receiving, acquiring, or purchasing nonhuman primates in interstate or foreign commerce. Several groups would be exempted from the prohibition, including entities that are licensed or registered by a federal agency. Importers, dealers, exhibitors, transporters, and research facilities that handle nonhuman primates are currently required to obtain a permit or license, or register with a federal agency. Therefore, those entities would not be affected by the provisions in the bill.

The cost to any sanctuaries that would need to get accredited would be small. H.R. 2964 also would exempt, under the conditions specified in the bill, individuals transporting nonhuman primates to veterinarians or to designated care givers upon the death of the owner. CBO expects that those individuals would incur minimal costs to meet those conditions. The costs to others who would be affected by the mandate also would be minimal. Consequently, CBO expects that the local direct cost of complying with the mandate would fall well below the annual threshold established in UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$136 million in 2008, adjusted for inflation).

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On August 20, 2007, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 1498, the Captive Primates Safety Act, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Public Works and Environment on July 31, 2007. S. 1498 and H.R. 2964 are very similar. The estimated total costs of the two versions of the legislation are the same, but the timing of outlays is slightly different because we assume that H.R. 2964 will be enacted at a later date.

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